Television services on the transponders of INSAT-1D and INSAT-2A

*30. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced television services by utilising spare time available on the transponders of INSAT-1D and INSAT-2A;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay in introducing the programme; and

(d) by when these will be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Only the programmes on the metro channel of Doordarshan between 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. are being uplinked using a transponder on INSAT-2A from 15th April, 1993. The output, using the spare time on other transponders, is proposed to be maximised in a phased manner to incorporate :

(i) an Entertainment Channel

(ii) a Sports Channel

(ii) a Business, News and Current Affairs Channel.

These channels are expected to be operationalised within the next few months.

Bringing UTI within the regulatory mechanism of SEBI

*31. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided that Unit Trust of India will be subjected to regulation and inspection by the Securities and Exchange Board of India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this will lead to re-organisation and spliting of UTI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Government is currently examining a proposal to bring the mutual fund operations of Unit Trust of India under the regulatory framework of Securities and Exchange Board of India with a view to provide a level playing field to all mutual funds. In connection with this proposal, the Government is examining all aspects relating to Unit Trust of India.

Opening of Regional Offices of the Registrar of Newspapers in India

*32. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for opening of Regional Office of Registrar of Newspapers in India and the criteria therefor;

(b) what are the places where the Regional Offices have so far been set up;

(c) what are the details of action taken to set up a Regional Office in Orissa; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) Three Regional Offices in the three metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were opened during the VIIth Plan period with the purpose of aiding and advising the publishers in the matter of registration of newspapers, assessment of circulation claim, allocation of newsprint and procurement

of printing equipment etc. thereby ensuring the growth of newspapers.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to set up a Regional Office in Orissa. The Regional Office at Calcutta is able to cater to the needs of newspapers in the State of Orissa.

Relay Hunger Strike by J.T.O.

*33. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Junior Telecom Officers actively involved in strategic operation and maintenance of telecom services have recently started a country-wide relay hunger strike to press for the settlement of their long pending demands; and

(b) what are their demands and in what manner Government propose to meet them keeping in view the economic situation in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) A Notice dated 18-3-93 for trade union actions has been received from Junior Telecom Officers Association. The Trade Union Actions included relay hunger strike from 6th to 8th April 1993 at CGM/GM Headquarters followed by similar hunger strike on 27th and 28th April, 1993 and work according to rule w.e.f. 27-4-93. Reports have been received that relay hunger strike had been organised from 6-8th April 1993 at some places in response to the call given by the JTOs Association.

(b) The demands of the Association are :—

(i) Creation of about 4800 Additional posts in TES Gr. 'B' so that approximately about 550 AEs, who face reversion as a result of recasting the Seniority list sequel to the Court's judgement are not demoted and all the Officials senior to them as per the revised seniority order are promoted.

(ii) Second Lateral Advancement.

(iii) Abrogation of TES Gr. 'B' qualifying examination.

(iv) Extending the benefit of advance increments to JTOs directly entering the Department with a qualification of degree in Engineering and rationalisation of the number of increments.

(v) Proper remuneration in the form of Over Time Allowance for JTOs performing duties on holidays/beyond office hours.

The Department is seized of the demands. Action within the frame work of rules and directive of the Court judgements is being taken. Discussions had also been held with the representatives of the Association. The agitation has been called off.

Decline in Revenue Collection

*34. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a fall in revenue collection during last year and so far in the current year in the country; if so, the extent thereof; and

(b) what measures have been taken to recover the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) The provisional estimate of shortfall in the